

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in view of the above-presented claim amendments and the following remarks.

Upon entry of this amendment, allowed claims 19-28 will be pending in the above-identified application. By this amendment, claims 1-18 and 29-43 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims in a continuing application. No new matter has been added.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-3, 13, 15-16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fekete et al. (USP 4,774,090). Claims 1-2 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Emodi et al. (USP 3,961,051). Claims 1-5, 7-8, 29 and 31-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shepherd et al. (WO99/32088) in view of Shanjahan et al. Claims 1-6, 11-12, 14, 29, 33 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Turnbald et al. (USP 5,849,320). Claims 1-12 also have been provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 49-60 of copending Application No. 10/356,731.

By this amendment, rejected claims 1-18 and 29-43 have been canceled thereby obviating these claim rejections. Only allowed claims 19-28 remain pending in the subject application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3858. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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